



# ROCKY FLATS

## ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

### UPDATE



A PERIODIC UPDATE ON ROCKY FLATS CLEANUP • SEPTEMBER 1991

REVIEWED FOR CLASSIFICATION  
By [Signature]  
Date 11/15/91

## Proposed IM/IRA for Operable Unit 4: Solar Ponds

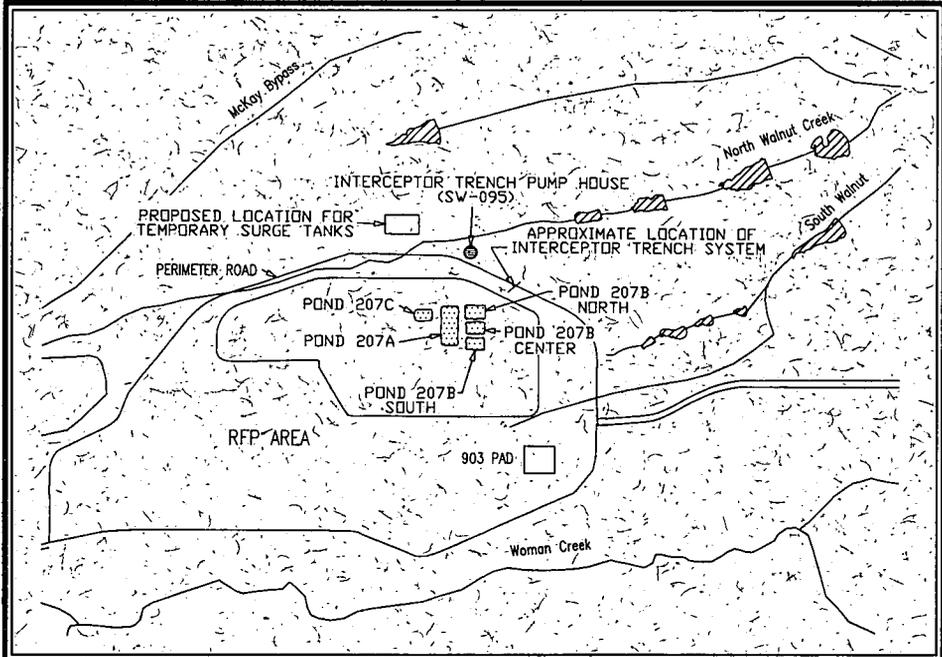
The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) invites the public to review and comment on the *Proposed Interim Measure/Interim Remedial Action (IM/IRA) Decision Document for the Solar Evaporation Ponds, Operable Unit 4 (OU4)*, at the Rocky Flats Plant (RFP). The 60-day public comment period on the IM/IRA runs from September 9 until November 9, 1991.

OU4 comprises five solar evaporation ponds. In the late 1950s, the ponds were used to store and evaporate low-level radioactive process wastes containing high concentrations of nitrates and treated acidic wastes. They were relined in the early 1960s and 1970s. The first interceptor trenches were installed in 1971 to

collect and recycle ground water contaminated by the ponds and to prevent natural seepage and pond leakage from entering North Walnut Creek. In 1981, these trenches were replaced by the current Interceptor Trench System (ITS), which recycles approximately four million gallons a year back into the solar evaporation ponds. Presently, one solar evaporation pond receives contaminated ground water collected by the ITS, which is located to the north and downgradient of the ponds.

The IM/IRA describes DOE's proposed approach to storing and treating the water in the solar evaporation ponds and the contaminated ground water collected by the ITS. This IM/IRA, driven by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), supports the partial closure activities at the site in accordance with

however, is intended to facilitate implementation of the RCRA-driven partial closure activities at the solar evaporation ponds. As such, the IM/IRA is being performed as a necessary step prior to pondcrete operations and site closure, as referenced in the AIP. (Pondcrete is a mixture of pond sludge, sediments, and concrete.)



The proposed action calls for the following steps:

- Discontinue pumping contaminated ground water collected in the ITS to the solar evaporation ponds. The intercepted ground water would be redirected temporarily to three "modular storage tanks" to be built near the ponds to collect the ITS water. These modular tanks

would act as a storage buffer between the source and process units.

would act as a storage buffer between the source and process units.

the Agreement in Principle (AIP) between DOE and the State of Colorado, and applicable regulatory guidance documents.

The IM/IRA identifies and evaluates an appropriate interim remedial action alternative for OU4. Interim remedial actions are generally initiated in areas where potential risk calls for a quicker response than is possible during the typically longer-term remedial investigation and feasibility study process. This interim activity,

- Remove approximately eight million gallons of excess liquid from four of the ponds. Natural evaporation of pond liquids accounts for only two million gallons per year. Portable "flash evaporators" would accelerate the removal of the liquids.

In addition to the interim actions described above, the anticipated

ADMIN RECORD

## Plan for Prevention of Contaminant Dispersion

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has just completed a public comment period on a proposed final plan that addresses the potential release of contaminants into the air from site-wide remedial investigation and interim remedial activities at RFP. The primary objective of the plan is to provide a guide for safe operations that protect the public and the environment. The approved *Final Plan for Prevention of Contaminant Dispersion (PPCD)* will incorporate comments from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Colorado Department of Health (CDH).

Currently, an interim *PPCD* is in effect to govern remedial activities at RFP until the *Final PPCD* is approved (expected in December 1991). The 60-day public comment period for the proposed *Final PPCD* has been extended by 14 days. Written comments may now be submitted to DOE until October 11, 1991. Copies of the proposed *Final PPCD* are available at the reading rooms listed on page 3.

The proposed *Final PPCD* establishes procedures for conducting investigative operations, defines monitoring programs to verify the

effectiveness of procedures, and defines a process to specify actions for preventing a hazardous or dangerous material release into the environment.

Typical control measures will include wind speed limits under which field work may be conducted; wetting and/or covering the soils, limiting speeds on dirt roads, decontaminating equipment prior to relocation, paving over dirt roads, monitoring air, and using non-hazardous chemical dust suppressants. ■

## Work Plan for Control of Radionuclide Levels in Water Discharges

The *Proposed Work Plan for Control of Radionuclide Levels in Water Discharges from the Rocky Flats Plant* is now available. This document describes surface water sampling and analytical methods and limitations for determining radionuclide levels, summarizes statistical assessments of accumulated analytical data, and recommends additional radionuclide studies on the quality of water discharged from RFP.

A 60-day public comment period for the *Proposed Work Plan for Control of Radionuclide Levels in Water Discharges from the Rocky Flats Plant* began September 24, 1991, and ends November 22, 1991. Information on the document will be provided to the public at the Quarterly Public Information Meeting on Environmental Restoration on October 17, 1991. A second meeting will be held on November 6 to accept oral comments on the document. Please

see the Calendar of Events on page 4 for details on the meetings.

Written comments are encouraged during the public comment period and will receive equal consideration as comments presented at the November 6 meeting. Please address written comments to: *Work Plan for Control of Radionuclide Levels Comments*, Beth Brainard, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Department of Energy, Rocky Flats Office, P.O. Box 928, Golden, Colorado 80402-0928. ■

### Solar Ponds, continued from page 1

activities for OU4 include removing pond sludges and sediments and mixing them with cement to form "pondcrete." The pondcrete would then be prepared for transportation to, and disposal at, the Nevada Test Site. Additional activities involving collection and treatment of contaminated ground water would also continue based on information collected during the Phase I and Phase II RCRA Facility Investigation process.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this *IM/IRA* is con-

sidered, the public is invited to comment by writing to:

Solar Ponds Comments  
Beth Brainard, Public Affairs Officer  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Rocky Flats Office  
P.O. Box 928  
Golden, Colorado 80402-0928

DOE will conduct a public information meeting on the proposed *IM/IRA* on October 17, in Westminster and a public comment meeting on October 30, also in Westminster (see calendar

for details). All comments received, including EPA and State comments, and DOE's response to those comments, will be considered for incorporation into the *Final IM/IRA Decision Document*. In addition, DOE will respond to all significant comments in a responsiveness summary.

DOE will make the approved *Final IM/IRA Decision Document* available to all interested parties prior to commencing field remedial/corrective activities associated with the *IM/IRA*. ■

## Washington, D.C. Reading Room To Contain RFP Documents

**E**G&G/RFP Community Relations has established an additional reading room in the Department of Energy's Freedom of Information and Privacy Branch Office in Washington, D.C. This will provide greater opportunity for people in the D.C. area to examine Rocky Flats documents. The office is located at 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W. and is open Monday through Friday,

from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Eastern time).

The Washington, D.C. repository will contain deliverables identified in the Interagency Agreement (IAG) signed by the Colorado Department of Health (CDH), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and DOE. In addition, future documents that are not required by the IAG but are con-

sidered important public documents will be available at the D.C. location.

If you have any questions about the new reading room, please call 202-586-6025. The mailing address is U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters, FOI and Privacy Branch, AD234.1, 1G-051/FORS, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585. ■

## Community Radiation Monitoring Network

**A**s part of the publicly-accessible air monitoring program discussed in the August *Update*, the first Community Radiation Monitoring Network will open this autumn at the Jefferson County Library, Standley Lake Branch.

This air quality monitoring equipment will provide current readings of community radiation levels, which residents may observe on their own. The monitoring station will feature displays to help interested residents learn about the basic concepts of radiation, including the significance of different levels. Monitoring results will supplement data from air monitoring stations already established, both on and off RFP.

Interested community members are invited to visit the monitoring station at the Standley Lake Branch Library, 8485 North Kipling Street, at the corner of 84th Avenue and Kipling Streets in Arvada. ■

## Public Invited to Use Reading Rooms

The following information repositories contain current information, technical reports, and reference documents on environmental restoration at the Rocky Flats Plant:

Colorado Department of Health  
Rocky Flats Program Unit  
4210 East 11th Avenue, Room 420  
Denver, Colorado 80220  
303-331-6733  
Hours: Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Boulder Public Library  
1000 Canyon Boulevard  
Boulder, Colorado 80302  
303-441-3100  
Hours: Monday - Thursday  
9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Friday - Saturday  
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday  
12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Rocky Flats Public Reading Room  
Front Range Community College Library  
3645 West 112th Avenue  
Level B, Center of Building  
Westminster, Colorado 80030  
303-469-4435  
Hours: Monday - Tuesday  
12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Wednesday  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Thursday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

EPA Superfund Records Center  
999 18th Street, Suite 500  
Denver, Colorado 80202-2405  
303-293-1807  
Hours: Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Rocky Flats Environmental  
Monitoring Council  
1536 Cole Boulevard, Suite 325  
Denver West Office Park, Building 4  
Golden, Colorado 80401  
303-232-1966  
Hours: Monday - Friday  
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

United States Department of Energy  
Freedom of Information and Privacy  
Branch Office  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585  
202-586-6025  
Hours: Monday - Friday  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## Calendar of Events

---

- **Rocky Flats Environmental Monitoring Council Meeting:**  
7:00 p.m., October 29. Front Range Community College, 3645 W. 112th Ave. Westminster.
- **General Rocky Flats Plant Tours:**  
October 14 and November 11, 1991.  
Please call 966-2011 one week in advance for reservations.
- **FY92 Site-Specific Plan Information Workshop:**  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m., October 9. Arvada City Hall, 8101 Ralston Road, Arvada.
- **FY92 Site-Specific Plan Public Comment Meeting:**  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m., October 16. Arvada City Hall, 8101 Ralston Road, Arvada.
- **Quarterly Environmental Restoration Public Meeting:** 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., October 17.  
Westminster Recreation Center, 10455 Sheridan Boulevard, Westminster. Topics will include the *Proposed IM/IRA Decision Document for the Solar Evaporation Ponds, and Work Plan for Control of Radionuclide Levels in Water Discharges from the Rocky Flats Plant.*
- **Public Comment Meeting on Interim Measure/Interim Remedial Action at Solar Evaporation Ponds, Operable Unit 4:**  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m., October 30. Westminster Recreation Center, 10455 Sheridan Boulevard, Westminster. Comment period runs from September 9 to November 9, 1991.

Published by EG&G Rocky Flats, Inc.  
**Community Relations**  
P.O. Box 464  
Golden, Colorado 80402-0464  
for the U.S. Department of Energy  
Contract No. DE-AC04-90DP62349

Telephone 303-966-5754  
for general information or  
303-966-6159 to have your name  
placed on the mailing list.

Printed on Recycled Paper

## New Documents

---

- *EG&G Rocky Flats Plant Environmental Restoration Monthly Reports for July 1991 and August 1991.*
- *Proposed Interim Measure/Interim Remedial Action Decision Document for the Solar Evaporation Ponds, Operable Unit 4.*
- *Plan for the Prevention of Contaminant Dispersion (Proposed Final).*
- *Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Five-Year Plan for Fiscal Years 1993 – 1997.*
- *Fiscal Year 1992 Site-Specific Plan.*
- *Proposed Work Plan for Control of Radionuclide Levels in Water Discharge from the Rocky Flats Plant.* ■

**EG&G Rocky Flats, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 464  
Golden, CO 80402-0464